

# CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS!

## PLEASE COMPLY WITH YELLOW SIGNS AND BOUYS!

### DISTURBING SEDIMENTS MAY CAUSE UNSAFE SLICK TO FORM

**Sediments inside the mapped area marked in red are contaminated.**  
**Boaters, swimmers and wadders are asked to stay out of this area.**



#### Where is the contaminated sediment?

Contaminated sediments within Chequamegon Bay are located directly off shore and bounded to the east of the Ashland Marina dock and west of the Prentice Avenue boat landing/fishing pier. The outer limit of the contamination is marked with Navigation Safety Buoys and the shoreline marked with signs.

Sediments in this area contain oils and tars. If the sediments are agitated, oils and tars are released to the water column, causing a “slick” to form on the water surface.

#### What’s the problem at the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund Site?

The Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund Site is made up of several properties within the city of Ashland, Wisconsin, and about 10 acres of sediment and surface waters in Chequamegon Bay. The site’s boundaries include U.S. Highway 2 to the south, Prentice Avenue to the east, Ellis Avenue to the west and Chequamegon Bay to the north. Contaminated groundwater exists under these properties.

Soils, groundwater, sediments and surface waters in this area are contaminated with wastes typical of manufactured gas plants, including poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals.

Tars and oils exist as free product in the soils, groundwater and sediments in portions of the site. “Free Product” refers to contamination that is present in the environment as a separate, floating or sinking material that does not readily mix with or dissolve in water.

#### Is the area safe for boating, fishing and swimming?

People who contact oily slicks on the surface of Lake Superior along the site may develop skin or eye irritation. People are unlikely to eat harmful levels of site chemicals in fish from Chequamegon Bay, which is part of Lake Superior. People should continue to follow the general Lake Superior fish consumption advice (available from the Ashland County Health Department). People can safely use the beach and boat ramp in Kreher Park and the Ashland Marina.



#### Please Follow the Sediment Safety Zone Signs and Buoys

**If you have questions please contact**  
**Jamie Dunn - DNR - 715 635-4049**  
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